FEATURES

Girls Leading Change working to promote health, empowerment in Winchester and beyond

SUMMER KIM | CONTRIBUTOR

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Executive Director of the Network for Social Justice Rebecca Slisz addresses the audience at the 'Girls Leading Change: Promoting Health and Empowerment' event, held at the Winchester Public Library on March 8. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Executive Director of the Network for Social Justice: March is Wo History Month a time to recognize the incredible contributions of women

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to history.

To mark the occasion, young women from an array of local organizations participated in “Girls Leading Change: Promoting Health and Empowerment,” an event held at the Winchester Public Library on March 8, International Women’s Day, sponsored by the Network for Social Justice.

An intergenerational audience enjoyed the panel discussion at the Winchester Public Library on March 8. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Participants included Winchester High School clubs such as Girl Up, Girls Gotta Run, Women in STEM, and Mind and Matter, as well as the Community Health team from La Colaborativa, a Chelsea-based nonprofit organization.

The panel was moderated by WHS junior Mariel Nagler, who guided the discussion by asking questions and invited panelists to share the experiences with leadership in the community.

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Mariel Nagler, left, moderated the panel discussion at the 'Girls Leading Change: Promoting Health and Empowerment' event. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Questions included how the club was started, how members got involved, and past events of the organizations, as well as more personal questions pertaining to subjects such as self-care and lifestyle.

After the panel, audience members had the chance to ask questions, which opened up the opportunity for the panelists to share more about their experiences and the work of their respective organizations.

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Left, Phoebe Li, of Women in STEM, with the microphone while right, panelists consider their responses to audience questions.

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"I enjoyed getting to hear from all sorts of different organizations on how they help empower women and their communities," said Nagler, also a member of Girl Up. "The question time after the panel was insightful and it was great to get to know some people in the community during the event."

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Members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea attended the 'Girls Leading Change: Promoting Health and Empowerment' event. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

After the panel, the executive director of the Network for Social Justice, Rebecca Slisz, spoke and connected the event with this year's theme of International Women's Day, "Give to Gain," promoting the mindset of generosity and collaboration. A question we can all ask ourselves: "Every day, everywhere, how will you actively give your support to gain gender equality?"

Phoebe Li is the president of Women in STEM at Winchester High School. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The second part of the event featured interactive activities planned by each of the organizations.

Girl Up hosted a "Guess the Statistic" game in which players were asked to estimate statistics related to female representation and the gend disparity. For example, participants learned that only around 27.5% of

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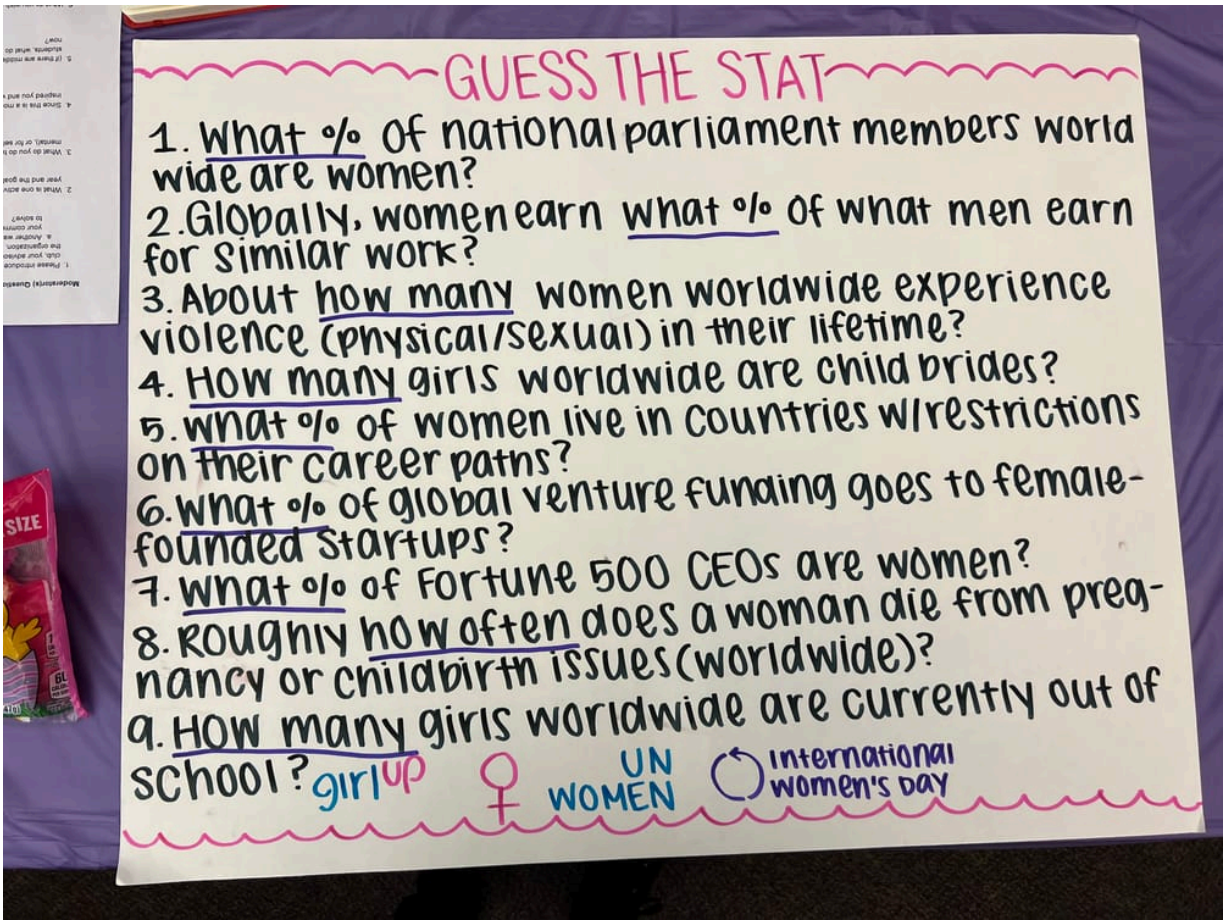
parliamentary members are women and that 125 million girls worldwide are currently out of school.



Guess the Statistics about women in the world was a game at the March 8 event. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Meanwhile, Girls Gotta Run had a station where attendees could name a woman they admired and share why she inspired them.

Noemi Margarint, WHS sophomore, led an activity with club members from Mind and Matter using balloons and flour to create stress relief balls.

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Mariel Nagler, left, and Summer Kim represented Girl Up! COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

"I really liked how we transmitted the message by talking about our clubs," she said. "I enjoyed listening to everyone and seeing how everyone was so supportive. I also really liked the stations and how everything was so engaging."

These were just a few of the engaging and meaningful activities available during the event, which encouraged discussion among those present. Many clubs even provided participants with fun prizes like candy and trinkets.

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Noemi Margarint and Aurora De Luca, of Mind and Matter, offered a stress-relieving activity at the event. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Girls Leading Change event offered the chance for attendees to engage with local organizations and learn about the impact that women have in our communities. As Women's History Month continues, such events demonstrate the impact and further potential of young women who lead with passion.

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Members of Girls Gotta Run with their advisor, Jasmyn Chacko, Spanish teacher at Winchester High School. COURTESY PHOTO/NETWORK FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Summer Kim is a sophomore at Winchester High School.

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FEATURES

Residents take the 'Plunge' to support Swim Winchester pool project

The wind almost carried the tent away during registration, and the rain picked up just as swimmers splashed into the water at Shannon Beach on Upper Mystic Lake Sunday afternoon for the second Swim Winchester Polar Plunge. Organized by Swim Winchester, the March 22 event at the Mystic Lakes drew

WENDALL WATERS | CORRESPONDENT and XIYUE ERIC HAN | CORRESPONDENT

March 23, 2026

FEATURES

Oh, what a trivial night! WFEE bee was a load of fun!

I feel the need to apologize to the Teletubbees seated at our table during WFEE's recent Trivia Bee. I was one of the Winchester Newshounds, Round 5, losers. Reporter Will Dowd and editor Nell Escobar Coakley were my teammates and Will taunted those poor high school girls like it

CHRIS STEVENS | CORRESPONDENT

March 18, 2026

FEATURES

Winchester Troop 507 celebrates milestone, honoring first female Eagle Scouts

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

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Dozens filled the hall — proud Scouts, families and friends — cheering on a historical milestone in local scouting. Troop 507, under Scoutmaster Mann Shoffner, proved once again that the rank of Eagle Scout is more than just a collection of badges — it's a testament to nonstop leadership and dedication. In

XIYUE ERIC HAN | CORRESPONDENT
March 17, 2026

Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14 at 7 p.m.

TALIA HO | CORRESPONDENT
March 4, 2026

Latest

NEWS

Winchester ZBA waives town regulations to move Washington/Swanton project along

Town officials have approved waivers of regulations for a residential/commercial development project at Washington and Swanton streets. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) on March 19 approved the waivers for a 40B project at 278-292 Washington St. and 12 and 16-20 Swanton St. in a special meeting preceding a

NEIL ZOLOT | CORRESPONDENT
March 26, 2026

NEWS

John Bellaire, 22, among youngest townwide winners in Winchester history

He won all eight precincts after a door-to-door campaign that emphasized direct voter contact over institutional backing.

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER
March 25, 2026

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EVENTS

Network for Social Justice to celebrate 35th anniversary

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: The Network For Social Justice turns 35 this spring! There will be a celebration on Saturday, April 11, from 7-9:30 p.m., at the Sons of Italy, 117 Swanton St., Winchester. Connect with your local friends and neighbors as

March 25, 2026

EVENTS

Winchester Community Music School presents Jazz Jam Session

The following was submitted by the Winchester Community Music School: On Saturday, March 28, join the community at Winchester Community Music School, 407 Highland Ave., for a Jazz Jam Session, an afternoon of fun, spontaneous jazz playing, beginning at 3 p.m. Instrumentalists and vocalists of all skill levels are

March 25, 2026

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